

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /033 W

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P 111211Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5190

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (MCCLURE, JAMES A.)

SUBJ: CODEL MCCLURE

REF: A. STATE 264941; B. AMMAN 8593; C. TEL AVIV 7107

1. EMBASSY LOOKS FORWARD TO VISIT BY CODEL MCCLURE. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER, FSO RODERICK M. WRIGHT, IS CONTROL OFFICER. AMBASSADOR CORDIALLY INVITES CODEL TO STAY AT RESIDENCE AND HOPES CODEL WILL ACCEPT GIVEN EXTREME CROWDING IN DAMASCUS HOTELS.

2. EW ARE SUBMITTING NOTE ANNOUNCING VISIT, AND REQUESTING APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. AS NOTED REF B, ASAD MAY BE IN AMMAN AT TIME OF CODEL VISIT, BUT WE WILL DO OUR BEST. WE, TOO, ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENCE UNTIL DAY OF APPOINTMENT AND THEN USUALLY JUST PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT.

3. IF CODEL HAD TO USE CONTINGENCY OF 1500 NOV 25, TUESDAY, DEPARTURE FROM AMMAN, THIS WOULD STILL PUT CODEL IN DAMASCUS AROUND 1800. ASAD SO FAR HAS SEEN SUCH VISITORS AFTER 1800

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AND THUS WE CAN ACCEPT THIS CONTINGENCY, BUT REQUEST WE BE

GIVEN AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE SO WE MAY KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH PRESIDENCY ON FIRM, ACTUAL ARRIVAL OF CODEL IN DAMASCUS. IF 1400 ARRIVAL DAMASCUS CHOSE, CODEL WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE USEFUL MEETINGS, AS INDICATED BELOW IN OUR SUGGESTED PROGRAM.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CODEL'S COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25:

1400 -- ARRIVAL DAMASCUS, WORKING/BRIEFING LUNCHEON WITH AMBASSADOR AND FEW SENIOR MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF.

1700 -- INFORMAL MEETING WITH SYRIAN DEPUTY PETROLEUM MINISTER (CONCESSIONS AND EXPLORATION) ENG. NADER S. NABULSI (U OF MISSOURI, 1956-61), HATHAWAY AND ECONOFF.

1930 -- DINNER AT RESIDENCE WITH SEVERAL SYRIANS INVITED (COUPLES) (CODEL BEING AVAILABLE 1800 THROUGH DINNER FOR POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT WITH ASAD; AMBASSADOR WOULD ACCOMPANY SENATOR MCLURE IF THIS APPOINTMENT COMES THROUGH.).

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26:

0900-1300 -- CALLS ON SYRIAN MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES, DR. ADNAN MUSTAFA (B.SC., UNITED KINGDOM); DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AFFAIRS, ENG ISSAM HILOU (U. TEXAS, PETROLEUM ENGINEERING); SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY (PARLIAMENT) MOHAMMED ALI AL-HALABI; AND IF CODEL WISHES DISCUSS MORE OPERATIONAL, ENERGY RELATED MATTERS, HEAD OF CRUDE MARKETING DEPARTMENT IN PRIME MINISTRY, HISHAN GHAZZI, OR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SYRIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY (EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION), ISA IBRAHIM. SYRIAN PARLIAMENT MAY WANT TO GIVE LUNCHEON. (N.B., WE HAVE CONCENTRATED ON OIL; THERE ARE ALSO EXCELLENT SYRIAN SPOKESMEN IN IMPORTANT ELECTRICAL ENERGY SECTOR AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN THIS RESPECT).

5. WE FACE PROBLEM IN SUGGESTING FURTHER EVENTS GIVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNKNOWN DEPARTURE TIME. THERE ARE NO FLIGHTS TO BAGHDAD FROM DAMASCUS ON WEDNESDAY; IRAQI AIRWAYS HAS NOT RPT NOT RECOMMENCED ITS FLIGHTS AND THUS IA-28 CITED IN PARA 2, REF A IS NOT AVAILABLE. NEAREST OTHER FLIGHTS FROM DAMASCUS ARE SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES RB-361, ETD DAMASCUS 0600, THURSDAY, NOV 27, ETA BAGHDAD 0800; SWISSAIR SR-392, ETD DAMASCUS THURSDAY, NOV 27, AT 2035, ETA BAGHDAD 2235; OR EGYPT AIR LS 726, ETD TUESDAY, NOV 25 AT 1710, ETA BAGHDAD CA 1940. SWISSAIR WOULD

DELAY UNDULY CODEL ARRIVAL IN IMPORTANT OIL COUNTRY SUCH AS IRAQ, EGYPT AIR WOULD LEAVE VERY SHORT TIME FOR DAMASCUS VISIT. NEED GUIDANCE SOONEST ON REVISED TRAVEL PLANS AS WE NEED THIS INFO TO INCLUDE IN OUR NOTE TO SARG.

6. PER PARA 6, REF B, EMBASSY DAMASCUS WILL MEET CODEL AT JORDANIAN BOFDER POST RAMTHA AND WILL TRANSPORT TO DAMASCUS ON TUESDAY, NOV 25.
PELLETREAU

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